It may be seen from the above table that by and large, the coal demand in the country was met by indigenous sources. However, some consumers import coal due to limited indigenous availability of coking coal and low ash non-coking coal. Environmental consideration, location specific landed cost, building up of stocks by Power Utilities etc.

(c) Coal India Limited has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) to jointly pursue pilot scale study for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), ONGC has, in turn, entered into a MoU with Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM), Russia for providing technical consultancy in this field. CIL and Coal Mines Planning and Design and Institute (CMPDIL), have identified 5 coal blocks and data packages were prepared for those blocks based on the formats supplied by ONGC and Skochinsky Institute of Mining. The data supplied were examined by the Russian experts and only one block namely Kasta in Raniganj coalfield was selected for generation of additional data for considering its suitability for taking up Pilot Scale Studies.

(d) As per available information (World Energy Statistics 2005). INDIA CONSUMED 4.39 Kg. of oil equivalent (Kgoe) per person of primary energy compared to 7835 in United States of America and 1090 in China and the world average in 1688 Kgoe.

Recovery of dues from private operators by BSNL

*371. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has to recover several crores from its subscribers and private operators;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether BSNL has chalked out plans to recover such dues from subscribers and private operators within a time schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed on official of BSNL, who have failed to recover such huge outstanding dues; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the total outstandng dues of BSNL against subscribers and private operators as on 31-01-2008 are Rs. 5488.04 crores. The details are as follows:—

(Amount in crores of Rs.)

	Subscribers		Private Operators	
Year	Fixed line Service	Mobile (Post paid)	IUC (Interconnect usage charges)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Upto 1997-1998	146.42			146.42
1998-99	140.55			140.55
1999-00	168.36			168.36

1	2	3	4	5
2000-01	251.74			251.74
2001-02	310.30			310.30
2002-03	310.18	9.75		319.93
2003-04	441.53	178.94		620.47
2004-05	448.27	90.49	184.07	722.83
2005-06	518.39	111.42	194.35	824.16
2006-07	687.85	133.00	112.89	933.74
2007-08(Upto Jan' 08)	675.28	101.80	272.46	1049.54
TOTAL:	4098.87	625.40	763.77	5488.04

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. the details of actions taken/being taken are shown in the Statement. (*See* below)

(e) and (f) The outstanding dues have been created on account of the fact, that many customers do not pay the bills on time, change their premises and after defaulting, move to other new operators without paying their dues. Cases of Oustanding dues are constantly pursued for recovery and are being reviewed by Secondary Switching Area (SSA) Circle on case to case basis, and suitable action is taken as per departmental procedure.

Statement

The details of steps taken by BSNL to recover its outstainding dues

(1) Instruction to Circle to ensure timely issue of telephone bills and to effect disconnection of telephones for non-payment promptly have been issued and are being re-iterated periodically. 35 days time limit for disconnection due to non-payment has been fixed.

(2) Payment reminders through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) are being issued by units.

(3) If no payment is received despite disconnection, a registered notice followed by a legal notice if necessary, is sent.

(4) Every year targets for liquidation of outstanding dues for different billing periods for each Circle/Metro district are fixed and performance thereof is reviewed regularly.

(5) The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective land revenue acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.

(6) Heads of Circles have been authorized to Appoint Private Recovery agents on commission basis to assist BSNL in recovery of outstanding revenue. Circles have also been asked to utilize the services of State Government Departments in recovery of outstanding dues.

(7) To persuade the subscribers to come forward to deposit the old dues and build better relationship in the competitive era, discount scheme were also launched.

(8) Procedure for settlement of defaulter cases through Lok Adalat has been introduced.

(9) For recovery of outstanding telephone dues in respect of permanently closed connection under Basic & WLL service and CMTS, incentive to staff is launched.

(10) Connection remaining disconnected for non-payment even after incoming disconnection are permanently closed and accounts regularized by adjusting Security deposit if any available.

(11) Instructions for timely recovery of dues from Private Operators were issued to all operators from time to time.

(12) The progress in regard to liquidation of outstanding dues in closely monitored and circles are addressed periodically to take all necessary steps to recover the same.

Illegal workers in foreign countries

*372. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of Indian workers illegally working in the foreign countries especially in the Gulf countries.

(b) whether the passports and other documents of the workers from India are being seized by their employers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to render necessary assistance and protect such workers from harassment and deportation?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Our mission abroad do not get the figures of exact number of illegal Indian emigrant workers from local authorities. However, the gulf countries from time to time declare amnesty for illegal emigrants either to regularise their stay or leave the country without penalty.

(b) and (c) As per reports received from the Indian Missions in Gulf countries and Malaysia complaints are received from time to time about the passports of the workers being in the possession of the foreign employer or sponsor. The Indian Mission in these countries, take up the matter with the local authorities concerned for released of passports on receipt of such complaints.

(d) The cases of exploitation and ill-treatment of Indian workers is reported to the Indian Missions and this Ministry from time to time. The complaints mainly pertain to contractual violations by employers such as non-payment/delayed payment of salary, non-availability of medical facilities, proper food, unhygienic living conditions etc. including withholding of passports. For protection and welfare of workers against harassment in the foreign countries the following measures are taken:

(i) On receipt of complaints against registered recruiting agents action is taken by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs under the provision of Emigration Act, 1983, leading to suspension and cancellation of their registration certificate/license in serious cases.